

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 PM-03 CIAE-00 NSCE-00
DODE-00 IO-06 INR-05 INRE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6838

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10312

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, EFIN, MOPS, CG, FR, BE

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S MEETING WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER SIMONET

REF: A) STATE 134355 (NOTAL), B) BRUSSELS 10188

1. UNDER SECRETARY COOPER, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR
CHAMBERS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EUR) VINE, AND
EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER, MET AFTERNOON MAY 26 WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET, ACCOMPANIED BY CAHEN AND
ONKELINX, TO DISCUSS ZAIRE PRIOR TO SIMONET'S MAY 29
MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON. WHILE
AWAITING SIMONET, CAHEN TOLD COOPER THAT PRESIDENT
MOBUTU EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE TO PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS
AT THEIR MAY 25 MEETING IN PARIS (REFTEL B) THAT AN
INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN FORCE WAS IN THE PROCESS OF
BEING FORMED AND SOON WOULD BE IN PLACE IN SHABA TO
GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF THE PROVINCE. CAHEN SAID
HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FIRST ELEMENTS OF WHAT WILL BE
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A MOROCCAN REINFORCED BATTALION ARE ALREADY IN KOLWEZI.
THE SECOND PART OF MOBUTU'S SECURITY PLAN FOR SHABA
ENVISIONS FAZ BATTALIONS OFFICERED BY FRENCH. CAHEN
SAID THAT TINDEMANS TOLD MOBUTU THAT BELGIUM PLANS TO
TO AHEAD WITH THE MULTINATIONAL PLAN TO HELP ZAIRE
SOLVE ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THAT THEREFORE INTENDS
TO STICK TO ITS SCHEDULE AND HOLD THE JUNE 13 AND 14

BELGIAN INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE MOBUTU PLAN. CAHEN SAID THAT EXCEPT FOR THE EXPECTED NEGATIVE REACTION OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, THE INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS TO THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH RESPONSE IN KOLWEZI HAVE BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE AS OPPOSED TO THE STRONG
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NEGATIVE REACTION TO THE 1964 STANLEYVILLE OPERATION. HE CONCLUDED THAT "OUR HANDS ARE MUCH FREER." CAHEN SAID THAT, IF SUCH AN AFRICAN FORCE WERE CREATED, HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT BELGIUM WOULD PARTICIPATE MILITARILY BUT THAT BELGIUM WOULD PROBABLY BE ABLE TO SUPPORT IT LOGISTICALLY.

2. CAHEN SAID THAT SECURITY MUST BE ESTABLISHED IN SHABA PROVINCE IN ORDER THAT THE EUROPEAN TECHNICIANS, AND TRAINED BLACKS, CAN RETURN TO KOLWEZI, AND THAT NERVOUS TECHNICIANS IN OTHER CITIES THROUGHOUT SHABA, ESPECIALLY IN LUKASI AND LUBUMBASHI, DO NOT PANIC AND LEAVE. HE ADDED THAT A EUROPEAN PANIC IN THOSE CITIES MIGHT TRIGGER PANIC AND A POSSIBLY VIOLENT REACTION ON THE PART OF LOCAL BLACKS AND THE FAZ. HE SAID THAT ONE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE NEWS THAT THE DAMAGE TO THE KOLWEZI MINES IS NOT AS EXTENSIVE AS EARLIER REPORTED AND THAT MINES COULD POSSIBLY BE IN ACTION WITHIN A COUPLE OF WEEKS RATHER THAN MONTHS, IF THE WHITES AND BLACKS WERE
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TO RETURN TO KOLWEZI. APPARENTLY, SOME BLACK TECHNICIANS HID IN THE MINES FROM THE REBELS AND KEPT THE PUMPS WORKING.

3. SIMONET ARRIVED LATE FROM HIS MEETING WITH RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA AND SAID THAT HABYARIMANA WAS A GOOD DEAL LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN WAS MOBUTU ABOUT MODERATE AFRICAN ENTHUSIASM FOR AND WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL AFRICAN FORCE FOR SHABA. SIMONET SAID HABYARIMANA'S VIEW WORRIED HIM AND WAS CLEARLY AT VARIANCE WITH MOBUTU'S OPTIMISM AS EXPRESSED TO TINDEMANS IN PARIS. HE ADDED THAT THE BELGIANS AND FRENCH CANNOT STAY TOO LONG IN SHABA.

4. UNDER SECRETARY ASKED SIMONET FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE LONG-TERM VIABILITY OF ZAIRE AS PRESENTLY ADMINISTERED, SAYING THAT ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON HAD SAID THAT ZAIRE WAS A COUNTRY THAT WAS NOT ADMINISTERED AT ALL AND HAD CITED KINSHASA'S TOTAL NEGLECT OF SHABA PROVINCE. SIMONET SAID THAT ZAIRE IS A RICH COUNTRY AND WHEN FOREIGN TECHNICIANS ARE GIVEN ADMINISTRATIVE

RESPONSIBILITY - AS IN THE CASE OF THE TRANSPORTATION
COMPANY ONATRA - THERE ARE PROFITS AND PROSPERITY.
HE SAID THAT THE IMF-DESIGNATED DIRECTOR FOR THE
CENTRAL BANK MUST HAVE THE POWER TO SAY NO TO MOBUTU'S
FRIENDS WHO SEEK SCARCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR
OWN PET PROJECTS. FURTHER DOWN THE LINE, LOWER LEVEL
FOREIGN EXPERTS ARE NEEDED IN OTHER KEY INSTITUTIONS,
ESPECIALLY CUSTOMS. THERE MUST BE A CLEAR POLITICAL
AGREEMENT FOR THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THESE
FOREIGN EXPERTS AND MOBUTU MUST BE MADE TO IMPLEMENT
WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO (HERE SIMONET SAID THAT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 10312

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MOBUTU HAD NOT YET GIVEN HIS GUARANTEE OF AMPLE
POWERS FOR THE IMF-APPOINTED CENTRAL BANK DIRECTOR).
COOPER ASKED SIMONET HOW HE VIEWED MOBUTU'S CHANCES
TO RIDE OUT THE PRESENT CRISIS AND BE RESPONSIVE TO
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PULLING HIS COUNTRY OUT OF
ITS PRESENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. SIMONET
SAID THAT THE ISSUE IS NOT MOBUTU OR SOMEBODY ELSE.
THERE IS NO CHOICE. THE ISSUE IS MOBUTU OR CHAOS.
WITHOUT MOBUTU, THERE WOULD BE YEARS OF BLOODY WARS
AND TRIBAL CONFLICTS WITH A TREMENDOUS COST IN
TERMS OF HUMAN LIFE AND ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC LOSS.
COOPER SAID THAT WAS PRETTY MUCH THE U.S. VIEW AND
CLOSE TO WHAT PRESIDENT KUANDA ALSO HAD SAID. COOPER
ASKED SIMONET WHAT HE THOUGHT OF THE IDEA OF
PERSUADING MOBUTU TO ADOPT A CABINET SYSTEM OF

GOVERNMENT, GIVING THE DAY-TO-DAY AUTHORITY TO
ADMINISTER THE COUNTRY TO OTHERS WHILE REMAINING
PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY. SIMONET REPLIED
THAT IT WOULD BE AS REALISTIC TO TRY THAT AS TO
HAVE TRIED TO SAY THE SAME THING TO PRESIDENT DE GAULLE.
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BY THE SAME TOKEN, HE SAID, NOTHING WOULD COME OF
RECOMMENDING THAT MOBUTU ALLOW MORE REGIONAL AUTHORITY.
SIMONET CONCLUDED THAT PERHAPS MOBUTU WOULD ACCEPT
ADMINISTRATION THROUGH FOREIGN TECHNICIANS AND
ADDED THAT THIS BROUGHT US BACK TO THE PROBLEM OF THE
SECURITY AND SAFETY OF THOSE PERSONS.

4. THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH SECRETARY
COOPER, WHO LEFT BRUSSELS IMMEDIATELY AFTER MEETING.
CHAMBERS

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